

REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated November 7, 2002, which set a three-month period for response. Filed herewith is a Request for a Two-Month Extension of Time, making this amendment due by April 7, 2003.

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1-3 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,519,277 to Yoke et al. Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,617,485 to Nakamura et al. Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,483,116 to Kusase et al.

In the amendment, claims 1, 3, and 4 were amended to address the rejections for indefinite language raised on pages 2-3 of the Office Action.

With regard to the rejection of claim 5 as indefinite, the Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to the specification on page 2, lines 23-28 and on page 6, line 24 through page 7, line 5, wherein the phrase "a transition...is effect in infinitely graduated fashion" is clearly explained and defined. The Applicant submits that claim 5 clearly defines this limitation, according to the description, and that claim 5 is not indefinite under Section 112.

Claim 1 was also amended to delete the limitation that the rotor is a claw pole rotor. This limitation is now covered in newly added claim 9.

Turning now to the substantive rejection of the claims, to more clearly define the present invention over the cited art, the Applicants have amended claim 1 to add the features of claim 2 and to add that the end regions extend between two pole roots of one pole wheel, as disclosed on page 6, line 26 of the specification and as clearly shown in Figure 4. Claim 2 has been canceled.

The Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 1 defines a patentably distinct set of features neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references.

The reference to Kusase does not show a pole gap closure that is braced or sustained at its axial end regions, which are located between two pole roots of one pole wheel in combination with recesses into which the projections are fitted. This combination of features is intended to provide a cylindrical surface over the claw poles and the pole gap closure (pgc) in combination with the purpose of disburdening the claw from the centrifugal force of the pgc. See also the specification of the present application, page 1, lines 25 to page 2, line 5.

Kusase shows a magnet holder 12 with permanent magnets 11, which is inserted between two pole cores 7. The holder 12 with magnets 11 is sustained under flange parts 20 through 23, which extend along the claw poles 15 and 16 to prevent the magnet holder 12 with magnets 11 from protruding in the centrifugal direction. Kusase fails to teach disburdening the claw poles or providing a cylindrical surface.

The reference to Nakamura et al likewise provides no teaching of disburdening the claws from the centrifugal force of the spacer. The axial end

regions of the spacer do not extend between two pole roots of one pole wheel. Also, Nakamura provides no teaching of disburdening the claw from the centrifugal force of the spacer.

With regard to the York reference, York discloses a silencer 22 (see all figures, column 3, line 2 and on), which is provide with projections 28 to cooperate with lateral surfaces 17 of pole fingers 16 to restrain outward radial movement of silencing portions 24.

York fails to show any projections 64 for sustaining or bracing the silencer 22 (pole gap closure 55) at its axial end regions for holding back the silencer 22 (pgc 55) against the centrifugal force of the silencer 22. York does not teach holding back the silencer 22 without any burden of the pole fingers 16. York also does not show any recesses 67 into which the projections 64 are fitted. This combination of features of the present invention is intended to provide a cylindrical surface in combination with disburdening the claws from the centrifugal force of the pgc 55.

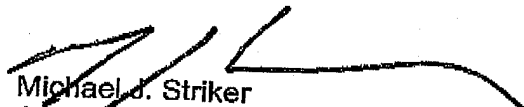
For the reasons set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, as amended, along with dependent claims 3-8, is neither anticipated by nor made obvious over the cited references. The Applicants further request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102 and reconsideration of the application as herein amended.

It is noted that the Examiner did not consider the Information Disclosure Statement which was filed simultaneously with the filing of this application. Consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement is requested.

In light of the foregoing arguments in support of patentability, the Applicants respectfully submit that this application stands in condition for allowance. Action to this end is courteously solicited.

Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to discuss appropriate claim language that will place the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Striker
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No.: 27233
103 East Neck Road
Huntington, New York 11743
631-549-4700

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